

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR

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THE GILBERTESE.

It would not be a surprise to hear that the Gilbertese, after a short stay in their native islands, had grown homesick for Hawaii. No white man ever lived here for twenty years and, whatever his circumstances might be, found himself weaned from the group by a visit to his birthplace or early home. "Other things change but it abides," as Mark Twain said of Hawaii. The experience most of us have had with a visit to the scenes of youth after an absence of more than half a generation, is disorienting. New faces in the old places, old faces altered, the sense of being a stranger on familiar ground, the chill of new customs and manners and points of view where you expected to find the old ways—all these repel you and turn you back to the newer but the real home. May not our brown brothers, the Gilbertese, feel the same way? The islands they knew in youth and early manhood have been transformed by the wand of progress. Writing in *The Friend*, Rev. Mr. Bingham says that the Gilbertese, instead of finding the aboriginal life they remember, will come under a British civilization with laws, schools, churches, and sanitation. Besides all this, as we may add, they will have been forgotten by their friends, for the memory of primitive South Sea races is like that of children. Their old homes will be in the hands of others, the property they once owned will be theirs no more. What new ways they have gained in twenty years will help to make them aliens in their own land. Even their speech is no longer what it was; it is mixed with Hawaiian and to some extent with oriental tongues. They may return to the Gilbert group as Marco Polo and his companions did to Venice after their journey to Cathay—unrecognized, unwelcome and suspected. And then will come the wave of regret that they ever left here.

While there would be no dissent on the part of the public if the money raised for a McKinley memorial should be used to provide a suitable statue, there are people who would be glad to have the fund go to increase the attractions and utilities of some one of the public parks. Kapiolani park, in particular, needs special outlay. It ought to have fountains, ornamental bridges, an aviary, an artistic band stand and sculpture. Possibly if a statue is decided upon the park will be given the advantage of it. There could be no better place to rear a memorial to the great President, it being the custom now to erect important statues in parks, if suitable ones exist, rather than in public squares and streets.

When Mr. Ashford saw his charges against the Attorney General in print he did the customary thing—he denied that he had made them and laid the blame on the reporters. It happens, however, that the reporters of both the evening papers heard Mr. Ashford say that the Attorney General and one of his deputies had coached a man to impersonate another at the polls, so the denial hardly counts. The charge, moreover, was peculiarly Ashfordian. All it lacked to make it wholly characteristic was the statement that the Attorney General had conspired to poison the Home Rule pol supply.

Colombia will probably get a revolution of its own before long. The "outs" are accusing the "ins" of having sacrificed the millions which the passage of the canal treaty would have brought into the treasury and of having lost Panama in the bargain. Here are reasons enough for the bloodiest kind of an uprising, premonitions of which have already come from Bogota. In such an event the establishment of the new Panama republic will be simplified as the attention of the Colombian government will be fully diverted from it.

The late Rear Admiral Beardslee is one of the long line of American flag officers—Brown, Irwin, Skerrett, Walker, Gherardi, Miller, Evans, Glass, Merry and Terry included—who have given Honolulu a chance to become well-acquainted with them. Of them all Admiral Beardslee was one of the most democratic and companionable. Many Honolulu people heard of his death with a sense of personal loss.

Hilo finds that, in spite of counties, the Territory still runs on collecting taxes. When County taxes are called for in addition, the shrieks of the men who worked hard to get the new burden on their shoulders will be heart-rending.

Home rulers are finding that a Home Rule record in office is not what moneyed men and institutions are willing to go on bonds for.

Mr. Ashford might have added as a postscript to his letter to the Attorney General: "O what a difference in the morning."

Somehow the spotted skirt does not lure the bondsman.

GROWTH OF THE NAVY.

There was a time within the recollection of men now in middle life when the United States did not possess twenty-five seagoing ships and none of those were modern. So late as the year when Admiral Belknap commanded the Asiatic station he complained that the United States was the only power represented at a Japanese naval review in Kobe with wooden vessels. It is not long ago that Honolulu saw its first up-to-date American cruiser in the Charleston; and since that time the port has seen the wooden Omaha, Pensacola, Pinta and Marion pass through in commission. How short a time it seems since the Advertiser welcomed with pride the arrival of the old wooden sloop of war Trenton, Vandalla and Nipsic to these shores. When those vessels were put hors de combat at Samoa American naval strength in this part of the Pacific disappeared. Before ten years had passed, however, our naval situation in the Pacific as elsewhere, had completely changed.

Today, according to the report of Rear Admiral Bowles, chief of the bureau of construction and repair, the United States could put on the sea 253 vessels fit for service. Besides these 45 are building and 23, while unfit for sea service, can be utilized as gun platforms in the defence of harbors. Serviceable vessels, including those under repair are as follows:

First class battleships, 10; second class battleships, 1; armored cruisers, 2; armored ram, 1; single turret harbor defense monitors, 4; double turret monitors, 6; protected cruisers, 14; unprotected cruisers, 3; gunboats, 12; light draft gunboats, 3; composite gunboats, 6; training ship (naval academy), sheathed, 1; special class (Dolphin, Vesuvius), 2; gunboats under 500 tons, 21; torpedo boat destroyers, 16; steel torpedo boats, 29; submarine torpedo boats, 8; wooden torpedo boats, 1; iron cruising vessels, steam, 5; wooden cruising vessels, steam, 6; wooden sailing vessels, 4; tugs, 39; auxiliary cruisers, 5; converted yachts, 23; collers, 16; supply ships and hospital ships, 14. The following are under construction or authorized:

First class battleships, 14; armored cruisers, 8; protected cruisers, 9; gunboat for Great Lakes (not begun), 1; composite gunboats, 2; steel torpedo boats, 6; training ships, 2; training brig, 1; tugs, 2.

The report reviews at length the progress made by the government in naval construction during that period. It is shown that the following additions have been made to the effective force of the navy during the year:

One battleship, 4 monitors, 12 torpedo boat destroyers, 1 torpedo boat and 7 submarine torpedo boats.

The list should have been increased by 2 battleships and 5 cruisers, the report states, but owing to strikes and other causes the completion was delayed. The report states that the "rate of progress of vessels under construction at the present time presents some very encouraging indications for completion of many of the most important contracts, but, considered as a whole, the progress made during the last fiscal year has been very unsatisfactory."

MILITARY SETTLES.

If the official suggestion had been made at Los Angeles, as it was made here, that the War Department might be induced to station a regiment of troops in that city, this is what would have happened:

The Chamber of Commerce would have met at once and adopted a strong memorial urging such an assignment. Mercantile bodies of a similar character would have followed suit and joined with the Chamber of Commerce in sending a deputation to Washington.

The aid of friends in the House and Senate, including, of course, the California delegation, would have at once been solicited.

A regiment stationed in Honolulu, even if it consisted of but 1000 men, would be worth not less than \$175,000 per annum to our merchants and producers and would add, year by year, as men who had learned to love Hawaii were discharged from the service by expiration of time, to our permanent white population.

A chance like that is one to be labored over. It deserves hard work on the part of all who have at heart the building up of the town and the Territory. What are we doing?

Coming events at Panama assuredly cast their shadows before at Washington. From the New York Sun of Oct. 24, we extract this telegram:

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 24.—The auxiliary cruiser Dixie left League Island this afternoon under sealed orders. The Dixie has on board 400 marines under the command of Major John A. Lajune. The Dixie only reached the breakwater yesterday morning and arrived at League Island shortly before noon.

Orders from the Navy Department at Washington were awaiting Capt. F. H. Delano to have the vessel made ready to sail at once under sealed orders. The chief engineer of the ship declared that it would take at least three days to put the boilers and engines in proper condition to sail. This fact was forwarded to Washington, but word came back to go ahead regardless of conditions.

It is believed that the Dixie will go to Culebra, Cuba, land the marines and hold ready for emergency calls.

The Dixie did not land in Cuba but

at the psychological moment she turned up at Colon and put the marines where they could do the most good.

HOW THE PENIEL WORK BEGAN

The seventeenth anniversary of the founding of the Peniel Mission in Los Angeles, was observed last evening at the local mission, corner of Fort and Hotel streets, above Lyon's book store. A large number of church folk dropped in to the meeting after prayer meetings in various churches were over, and many took part in making addresses.

Those in charge of the mission here told of the manner in which the Peniel work began. Mrs. Ferguson, the founder, was a devout woman who lived in Los Angeles. She desired to take some active part in spreading the gospel, and thought the subject over and over again. Her husband was also greatly interested in the matter. One day they heard that the Masonic hall was vacant and could be rented for \$75 a month. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson had but \$37. They prayed for help, and their plea was answered, for shortly afterward a friend drove to the house, and on hearing of the proposition, asked how much money was needed and made out a check for \$100. Thus the hall was rented and the Peniel mission work began. The local mission has been established for about four years, during which time it had a hall on lower Nuuanu street, moving in the past year to its present location, maintaining an out-of-door service every evening prior to the meeting in the hall.

HAVE CASTAWAYS BEEN KILLED?

Mr. Lambert, U. S. Vice-Consul of Formosa, cables Mr. E. C. Bellows, U. S. Consul-General at Yokohama, under date Daitobel, Oct. 17th, 8:25 p. m., to the following effect:

"Wat Morris, master, Henry Adams and Peter Johnson, seamen, Thomas Pickle third mate, all Americans, are supposed to have been killed by savages on Botel Tobago Island where they landed from the missing boat from the wrecked Benjamin Sewall."

"The U. S. Wilmington and two Japanese ships are now searching the island."

Botel Tobago Island has a bad reputation for hospitality towards strangers. It is a dependency of Formosa, some 45 S. E. of Formosa; lat. S. 22 degrees 1m. 40s.; long 121 degrees 45m. 45s. E. Mr. James W. Davidson, in his standard work on Formosa, published this year by the "Japan Gazette" Co., says of it:

Botel Tobago, which is only some 35 miles in circumference, consists of a single long hill on the slopes of which the savages live. To the ethnologist the inhabitants of this little land are perhaps the most interesting of all the savages in the colony, and doubtless there are few tribes in the whole East who live in such a primitive manner, and who have had so little communication with the outside world, as the Botel Tobago savages.

There are but few historical references to the island. Captain Beechey commanding the British Government vessel Blossom visited Botel Tobago in 1826, determined its position, and constructed a plan of its northern and western sides. Beechey reports the lower slopes of the island as under cultivation, and that a large village was seen on the northern side. As the officer further reports that "the coast is rocky in almost every part and probably dangerous to land upon, as needle rocks are seen in many parts of the island," it would appear that no landing was made. There is, however, a record of Chinese visitors. In a report on the Formosan savages made by a Chinese officer attached to the Formosa government, published in 1722, it is stated that the early Chinese of Formosa visited Botel Tobago in hopes of finding there some profitable trade. They found the island inhabited by a people with whom they could not converse, and who furthermore were unwilling to part with their little property. Disappointed at the failure of their trip they slaughtered many savages, and gathering together the scanty possessions of their victims, returned to Formosa. At a later date, other Chinese from South Formosa, adding to their party some savages from Koshun (Henchun) district, who were expected to serve as interpreters, visited Botel Tobago. The natives, net for getting the treachery of their former visitors, retaliated on this occasion; for it is recorded that not one of the party ever returned.—Japan Gazette.

Women Tourists Cause a Runaway.

Yesterday afternoon two women standing on the corner of Fort and Hotel streets frightened one of the delivery horses of Grady, Sayres & Co. by shouting, tossing their handkerchiefs and making themselves generally conspicuous. The horse broke away from the hitching post, turned the wagon over tossing several cases of merchandise on the pavement and ran wildly up the street. Both women were arrested and charged with being public nuisances. The women claimed to be invalids. They testified that a few hours previous they had stopped in a local drug store and were extremely benefited for having drunk profusely of Cooke Mineral Water. The judge only laughed and said "that must be great stuff."

Makes You Mad.

Ain't nothing makes a woman so hop-plin' mad when she thinks she's got a bargain as to come home and find her neighbor got a better—one awnings are all bargains and one price to all, Pearson and totter company.

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